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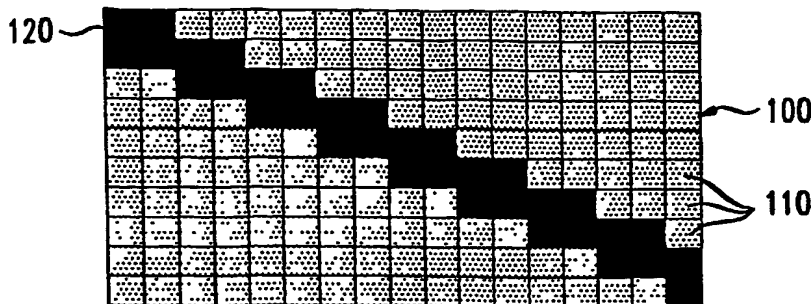
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(54) Title: **TECHNIQUE FOR DEFINING CONCEALMENT ORDER TO MINIMIZE ERROR PROPAGATION**



(57) Abstract: Concealment of macroblocks (110) in a rectangular array (130) advantageously occurs by concealing successive rows of macroblocks by progressing in the direction of the larger side of the array. By performing concealment in this manner, information from the concealment of a preceding row or column propagates in a way that facilitates the prediction of contours either in the vertical, the horizontal or the diagonal direction horizontal/diagonal direction, thereby improving the quality of concealment.

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